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U.S. Government aids victims in Achocalla

Donation is part of more than \$us 900,000 in response to recent humanitarian crisis throughout Bolivia

Today, U.S. Ambassador to Bolivia **David N. Greenlee** led a U.S. mission to the town of Achocalla in the department of La Paz to bring humanitarian relief to 73 families who were victims of recent mudslides and flooding.

Thanks to planning and foresight and close coordination with the Vice Ministry of Civil Defense, the **U.S. Embassy Military Group** had pre-positioned a large quantity of disaster relief supplies in El Alto, including the medicines, blankets, cots, tents and clothing that were distributed today in Achocalla. Since 2004, the U.S. Embassy, through its Military Group and the U.S. Southern Command in Miami, has contributed more than \$530,000 to civil defense preparedness in Bolivia, including workshops and training exercises. This advance planning enabled the U.S. Embassy to respond rapidly to the plight of the people of Achocalla.

To address the immediate nutritional needs of the people, the **U.S. Government's Agency for International Development (USAID)** distributed two tons of food from its "Title II" Food Security Program, which will provide one month of sustenance to each of the 73 families affected by this natural disaster. USAID also installed a 20,000-liter water tank. The non-governmental organization Save the Children is distributing those U.S. government donations.

In addition, USAID will initiate a "food for work" project in Achocalla, which will provide temporary jobs to the town's citizens to clean up the after effects of the flooding and landslides, such as clearing and repairing roads, constructing walls and barriers and drainage ditches. In exchange for their labor, the workers will receive additional food rations.

Also present in Achocalla to receive the emergency aid were Mayor Maribel Valdez Fernandez, the president of the Municipal Council, the MAS deputy congressman Leonidas Jacinto, who represented serving congressman for District 14 Oscar Chirinos, and other local officials. It was the congressmen representing the district of Achocalla who requested assistance from the Embassy.

To date, U.S. Embassy assistance to Bolivia in response to the recent natural disasters in several regions of the country totals more than \$us 900,000. Additionally, the Embassy's **Narcotics Affairs Section (NAS)** authorized the Red Devils Unit to use its helicopters to rescue victims, deliver emergency relief supplies, and transport government officials and relief officials to disaster sites.

These efforts are further evidence of the U.S. Embassy friendship and commitment to the people of Bolivia.

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